LTTD has less operational and maintenance problems compared to other desalination processes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NIOT has demonstrated production of fresh water from seawater using the barge mounted desalination plant at an estimated cost per liter of about 6 paise per litre. The production cost can come down to four paise per litre in the long run, for higher capacity plant of 100 lakh litre per day, even though the first plant may cost more.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir., The estimated cost of production of demonstration plant is inclusive of capital and other fixed costs.

Constitution of National Commission for protection of child rights

*296. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, in pursuant of the Act of Parliament, constituted the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights;

(b) if so, the functions and powers of the Commission;

(c) who is heading the Commission and whether all the members of the Commission have been appointed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Functions and powers of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights have been laid down under Section 13 and 14 respectively of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. Relevant provisions are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Shrimati Shantha Sinha is the Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Two members, namely, Shrimati Sandhya Bajaj and Ms. Dipa Dixit have been appointed in the Commission so far.

(d) and (e) Appointment of the remaining four members is under process.

Statement

Functions and powers of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005

Section 13 (1): The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely:

(a) examine and review the safeguards provided by or under any law for the time being in force for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation;

(b) present to the Central Government, annually and at such other intervals, as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;

(c) inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases;

(d) examine all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by terrorism, communal violence, riots, natural disaster, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, maltreatment, torture and exploitation, pornography and prostitution and recommend appropriate remedial measures;

(e) look into the matters relating to children in need of special care and protection including children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children, children in conflict with law, juveniles, children without family and children of prisoners and recommend appropriate remedial measures;

(f) study treaties and other international instruments and undertake periodical review of existing policies, programmes. and other activities on child rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation in the best interest of children;

(g) undertake and promote research in the field of child rights;

(h) spread child rights literacy among various sections of the society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminars and other available means;

(i) inspect or cause to be inspected any juvenile custodial home, or any other place of residence or institution meant for children, under the control of the Central Government or any State Government or any other authority, including any institution run by a social organization; where children are detained or lodged for the purpose of treatment, reformation or protection and take up with these authorities for remedial action, if found necessary;

(j) inquire into complaints and take *suo motu* notice of matters relating to–

(i) deprivation and violation of child rights;

(ii) non-implementation of laws providing for protection and development of children;

(iii) non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships to and ensuring welfare of the children and to provide relief to such children, or take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities; and

(k) such other functions as it may consider necessary for the promotion of child rights and any other matter incidental to the above functions.

(2) The Commission shall not inquire into any matter which is pending before a State Commission or any other Commission duly constituted under any law for the time being in force.

14 (1): The Commission shall, while inquiring into any matter referred to in clause CD of sub-section (1) of section 13 have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and, in particular, in respect of the following matters, namely:

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) discovery and production of any document;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office; and

(e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

(2) The Commission shall have the power to forward any case to a Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the same and the Magistrate to whom any such case is forwarded shall proceed to hear the complaint against the accused as if the case has been forwarded to him under section 346 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Exploitation of tribal women and children

*297. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale exploitation of tribal women and children working as house maids in various metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the action Government have taken or propose to take to protect the rights of these underprivileged women and children; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide free education to these women and children and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) There are no reports from reliable sources indicating large scale exploitation of tribal women and children working as house maids in various metropolitan cities. However, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has set up a Working Group to look into the matter and suggest preventive measures. Also the National Commission for Women has taken steps to have a detailed study dealing with the issue of house maids as well as their exploitation by the placement agencies.